

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of fabricating a fixture having a seamless depression capable of holding a liquid, utilizing a thermoforming process, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) placing a single-layer sheet, having predetermined outer dimensions, of heated, malleable, solid surface material in a vacuum mold having only a female cavity having inner dimensions, said outer dimensions of said single-layer sheet of material being greater than said inner dimensions of said female cavity, said vacuum mold including neither injection molding capability nor an internal source of heat;
- b) creating a vacuum within ~~the~~ said female cavity of said vacuum mold, said vacuum being substantially the only force acting upon said single-layer sheet in order to deform said single-layer sheet into a seamless, three-dimensional shape substantially conforming to said female cavity of said vacuum mold;
- c) allowing the deformed material of step (b) to cool to a substantially rigid shape; and
- d) removing the substantially rigidly shaped material from said vacuum mold.

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Claim 2 (previously presented): The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the vacuum created in step (b) deforms said single-layer sheet of solid surface material to substantially its final shape.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said deformed material comprises a flange portion, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

- e) constraining said single-layer sheet of solid surface material about said flange portion by means of a retaining ring prior to and during said vacuum creating step (b).

Claim 4 - 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (original): The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising the step of:

- e) bonding said rigidly shaped material of step (d) to another component.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein said another component comprises one of the group: a countertop, and a curb, ~~other assembly feature~~.

Claims 8 - 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of fabricating a fixture having a seamless depression capable of holding a liquid, utilizing a thermoforming process, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) sizing a single-layer sheet of solid surface material having predetermined outer dimensions;
- b) heating and placing said sized, single-layer sheet of solid surface material of step (a) in a vacuum mold having a cavity with inner dimensions, said outer dimensions of said single-layer sheet of material being greater than said inner dimensions of said cavity, said vacuum mold including neither injection molding capability nor an internal source of heat;
- c) creating a vacuum within the said cavity of said vacuum mold in order to deform the material into a shape having a substantially seamless three-dimensional shape capable of holding a liquid, said vacuum being substantially the only force acting upon said single-layer sheet of solid surface material to cause said deformation;
- d) allowing the deformed material of step (c) to cool to a substantially rigid shape; and
- e) removing the substantially rigidly shaped material from said vacuum mold.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein the vacuum created in step (c) deforms said single-layer sheet of solid surface material to substantially its final shape.

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Claim 14 (previously presented): The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said deformed material comprises a flange portion, and wherein the method further comprises the step of:

- f) constraining the said single-layer sheet of solid surface material about said flange portion by means of a retaining ring, prior to and after said vacuum creating step (c).

Claim 15 - 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (original): The method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising the step of:

- f) bonding said rigidly shaped material of step (e) to another component.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein said another component comprises one of the group: a countertop, and a curb, ~~other assembly feature~~.

Claims 19 - 22 (cancelled)